

William Charles Cole Claiborne to Andrew Jackson, December 20, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, December 20, 1814.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose you a Return in part of the Militia of the state of Louisiana.¹ You would sooner have received it, but for causes, which I could not controul. The enclosure (A) is a Return of the regular Militia, *at present* within the city, and Environs of New Orleans; their numbers have been diminished by several Detachments, *heretofore* ordered into the service of the United States, and by two or three Companies recently raised, I learn, under your authority, and of which description are the Detachments under Mr. Ogden, and Mr. Jacques Vienne.

1 Dec. 12, 1814, Lieutenant-Colonel MacRea made the following report to Jackson:

“Detachments and Corps Stationed in the City of New Orleans and its Dependencies Viz.

“In Fort St. Charles Capt. Humphreys Company Corps of Artillery.

“In Barracks 7th Regiment U. S. Infantry.

“On Marignys Canal. Capt. Gordons Company of Volunteer Infantry from Rapide.

“In the Fauxburgh St. Mary. Capt. Smiths Dragoons and Capt. Griffiths Company of Mounted Volunteer Rangers from Feliciana.

“At Declouets house lower Fauxburgh, Captain Dubuchets Hussars from Tech.

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"At Fort St. John a Detachment from the 7th Infantry of 1 Sub. 1 Sergt. 1 Corporal and 19 privates.

"On the Lafourche Capt. Hicks Company of Louisiana drafted Militia.

"At Barataria Capt. Dupas Company of Louisiana drafted Militia.

"At English Turn a Detachment of the Louisiana drafted Militia. Under Col. Alexander Declouet."

The enclosure (B) will shew you the strength of the several *Rifle, Marine, and veteran corps* , of *Chevaux's Troop of Cavalry* and of the *fire Company* . The Rifle Company is an *Independant Corps* ; organized under a particular Law, which accords to it peculiar privileges, and among these, is the one of being immediately under the orders of the Governor of the State. *The Marines* have recently been raised and consists for the most part of *transient Persons* . They have been organized by me into a Battalion, and fully officerd; They were inspected on this morning, and are anxious to be put on duty. *The veterans* are men exempt by law from militia service, or incapable by age or bodily Infirmities of active Duty. Chevau's Cavalry is an Independent Company, entitled by law to peculiar privileges, one of which is, to be more immediately under the orders of the Governor. The *fire Company* is composed of Fathers of families, entitled by law to exemption from ordinary militia duty; but who at the Present crisis, have made a voluntary tender of service, *within the city* .

The enclosure (C) will shew the strength of a volunteer Battalion of free men of colour, which I have recently organized and officered. They have been inspected, and are armed with good musket Cartridge Boxes and Bayonets Belt have not been furnished them, nor have I any at my disposition. This Battalion is solicitous to be put in activity, and if you think proper, to make me *the vihicle of Conveying your wishes* , it shall be ordered to any Point you shall designate.

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I have not accurate information as to the Present Condition of the Battalion of uniformed militia, (Plauchés command) at Present under your immediate orders; It has of late been much added to by Recruits from the Regular militia, and indeed *the practise* of leaving one company to join another, has of late become *so common* , that to prevent the total destruction of some corps, and much derangement, to others I have deemed it proper to forbid it, in General militia orders.

The Return of the Battalion of Chosen Men of Colour, ordered to the Chef Menteur, has been mislaid; another will Soon be furnished me, and a Copy shall be forwarded to you, on Tomorrow if desired; But I take it for granted that of the Strength of this corps, you are fully informed.

As Regards the militia of the state generally, I cannot give you full information; But I have ordered the Adjutant General to prepare a general Abstract from the returns last received, and which shall be transmitted to you.

I am sir